

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 5, 9, and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND claims 2-3, 6-7, 10, and 12-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The bar code reader according to claim 1, further bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:~~

a read unit that reads a bar code attached to an article, and outputs bar code information corresponding to the read bar code;

a term information acquisition unit that acquires term information included in the bar code information;

a term expiration check unit that calculates whether the term of the article has expired based on the term information;

a notification unit that notifies that the term of the article has expired upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired; and

a timer unit that keeps record of a present time,

wherein the term expiration check unit calculates whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present time with the term information, and wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The bar code reader according to claim 42, further comprising a transmission unit that transmits the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The bar code reader according to claim 2, further comprising a time setting unit that sets a time in the timer unit using a time setting bar code.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code read control ~~The method according to claim 5, further applied to a bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:~~

reading a bar code attached to an article, and outputting bar code information corresponding to the read bar code by using a bar code reader;  
acquiring term information included in the bar code information;  
calculating whether a term of the article has expired based on the term information, the calculating being performed by the bar code reader;  
notifying that the term of the article has expired upon determination that the term of the article has expired; and

acquiring a present time from a timer unit,  
wherein the calculating comprises:

setting a length of time as time error information, and  
comparing a present time with the term information and considering the time error.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 56, further comprising transmitting the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 6, further comprising setting the present time in the timer unit using a time setting bar code.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A bar code reader according to claim 9, further for a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:

a term expiration check unit that calculates whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison of a present time with term information;  
a notification unit that notifies a remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired;  
and  
a timer unit that keeps a record of a present time, and the comparison considers a settable time error.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code read control ~~The according to claim 11,~~  
~~further method applied to a bar code reader communicating with a remote apparatus in a POS~~  
~~system, the method comprising:~~

calculating whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison of a present  
time with term information, the calculating being performed by the bar code reader;  
notifying the remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired; and  
keeping a record of a current time and setting a time error, wherein the comparison is  
adjusted for the time error.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The bar code reader, according to claim 12, the term  
expiration check unit comprising:

a controller calculating the term expiration, and  
a memory connected to the controller and storing time error information used by  
the controller in the calculation of the term expiration.